

## Barbara Olshansky

**From:** Greg Ruggiero [greg2006@sevenstories.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2005 1:10 PM  
**To:** Barbara Olshansky  
**Subject:** Ellsberg blurb

Olshansky,

Here's my first pass at a blurb for DE. I really want to make the Vietnam tie-in, but not in the overplayed Vietnam-Iraq war comparison. Also: There is probably a more persuasive word available than "totalitarian", but we should be free to call a spade a spade and let things fall where they will.

Thoughts?  
Ruggiero

During the Vietnam War, the US "destroyed villages in order to save them." According to Barbara Olshansky's gripping new book, *Democracy Detained*, that kind of brutal logic did not exit with the Nixon administration, but stayed and quietly grew. In today's post-9/11 world, the Bush administration seems set on sacrificing human rights, the core principles of the US Constitution, and the very concept of open government in order to save them from terrorism. In her clear and meticulously referenced analysis, Olshansky presents fact after startling fact that document the Bush administration's use of Orwellian practices: increased secrecy and surveillance, mass round ups and deportations, disappearances, indefinite detention, torture, and over-reaching executive authority. Totalitarian power may seem like a hyperbole, but after reading *Democracy Detained*, we can either stick our head in the sand or face the facts about what our government is doing. Olshansky's invaluable book offers a sober but frightening portrait of who we as a country have become, and calls on us to stand up to our government officials before they take away what's left our democracy and freedom.

Dear Dan -  
Here is the proposed blurb.

Greg Ruggiero | Editor | Seven Stories Press | [www.sevenstories.com](http://www.sevenstories.com)

Peace,  
Bob